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CAREX LENTICULARIS VAR DOLIA **GOOSE-GRASS SEDGE**

Goose-grass Sedge is a tufted grass-like perennial that forms clumps up to 25 cm in diameter, with stems that are 8-30 cm long. Basal leaves are 10-18 cm long and ca. 3 mm wide; stem leaves can be shorter. Dried leaves from the previous year persist at the base of the plant. Flowering stems are usually nodding or more often prostrate on the ground, and the inflorescence consists of 3-4 oblong spikes in a terminal cluster. Each spike is about 15 mm long and 5 mm wide. The lower spikes have only female flowers, but the uppermost spike has male flowers on the bottom half. The spikes usually appear dark brown, but they may be almost completely green. Perigynia are green with purple spots toward the tip, but are mostly hidden by the purplish or dark brown bracts. Each perigynium has 2 stigmas and a lens-shaped achene. Fruit mature in late July-August.

The loose tussocks, with the leaves and stems generally growing low to the ground, are distinctive in the field. A hand lens or microscope and a technical key are needed for positive identification.